

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment
July 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), Steve Cardon (SC), Michelle Clark (MC) (via phone), David Davis (DD), Tolulope Odunlami (TO) and Geoff Sanders (GS).

Absent: Seth Adams (SA), Kris Dighe (KD), and Beri Kravitz (BK).

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW) and three college students interested in the Commission and in City process in general.

1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm in the Blue Crab Room at Rockville City Hall.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

DD moves to approve June 10th meeting minutes as written; GS seconds. Unanimous approval of June 10th meeting minutes.

3. Green Building Policy Recommendations

Since the Commission's last full meeting on June 10th, a "green building strike force" of a handful of Commissioners met twice and compiled an outline of recommendations to form the basis for discussions with the whole Commission. During the course of this discussion, several revisions and clarifications were proposed to the draft recommendations. The strike force will meet again on July 29, 2008 to incorporate these changes into final document to be presented for Commission acceptance at the August 12, 2008 meeting.

Some questions arose as to the validity of building information contained within the tax records database – NW to determine reliability of data.

4. Mayor & Council Review of Zoning Ordinance

The Mayor & Council have been feverishly reviewing the Planning Commission's final draft of the Zoning Ordinance, which was officially released on May 21, 2008. The Mayor and Council met on July 14th, and intend to meet again on the 16th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 28th and 30th to finalize the zoning ordinance. The Environmental Management Division (EMD) has taken the Commission's comments on the previous version of the zoning ordinance, and along with EMD's comments incorporated them into a single set of "environmental comments" that have been presented to the Mayor & Council for their reference.

It is anticipated that the final version of the new zoning ordinance will be adopted in mid-September.

5. Working Group Updates

Tabled for this month.

6. Staff Updates

NW mentioned that the new environmental website (<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment>) was up and running. In addition, the City has moved to on-demand videos of previous Mayor & Council meetings. You can click on a certain agenda item, and just view that portion of the meeting at any time from Rockville's website.

NW asked for the names and contact information of any working group volunteers that were not full Commissioners for inclusion in the City's upcoming volunteer appreciation luncheon.

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The City will be engaging in a rewrite of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP). This update is being performed in part to meet new State regulations that require that CMPs have a Water Resources element to them, amongst other additions. Long Range Planning would like to attend the Commission's September meeting to discuss the upcoming rewrite with the Commission.

There will be a change in the Commission's regularly scheduled November meeting date: following the "Second Tuesday" norm, it would fall upon November 11th, which is a City holiday (Veterans Day). The proposed alternate meeting date is Wed. November 12th.

Following recommendations from the Commission, the date for the appointment of the Commission Chair has been postponed from April to September. April was seen as a particularly busy time to potentially change leadership, as Earth Day, Science Day, and other similar activities occur in that timeframe. Fall was seen as a better time for the annual appointment of Chair. The Environment Commission has previously unanimously voted to recommend that FK serve another term as Chair; this will now take effect starting with the first meeting of the Mayor & Council in September, on September 8th.

7. Pending / Previously Tabled Items

No previously tabled items were addressed at this meeting.

8. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.